

His remaining share in the Dreyfus case may be dealt with briefly— The victim was at last free, restored to his wife and children; and thus a great part of Zola's object had been achieved. The charge against the novelist of having libelled the Esterhazy court-martial still had to be considered, but his trial was repeatedly postponed in consequence of the government bringing an Amnesty Bill before the legislature. Zola repeatedly protested against the measure, addressing long letters to both the Senate and President Loubet on the subject.<sup>1</sup> He did not wish to be amnestied but judged, and he thought it abominable that the same law should be applied to him and other defenders of the truth as to all the evil-doers who had persecuted Dreyfus, screened the scoundrel Esterhazy, and made use of every possible lie, forgery, and fraud, in order to obscure the truth,, deceive the nation, and prevent justice from being done. But Zola's protests, whether by letter or by word of mouth, before the Senatorial Committee, which received him on March. 14, 1900, were of no more avail than those of Dreyfus himself, M. Joseph Eeinach, and Colonel Picquart. In point of fact M. Waldeck-Boussieu, the Prime Minister, was most concerned about the Clericalist peril behind the Affair,—the strenuous efforts which bishops, priests, and particularly religious orders had been making

to capture France. They had used the Dreyfus case as a weapon ; under their secret direction it had proved indeed a powerful one, and in M. Waldeck-Rousseau's opinion, before all else, it was necessary to deprive them of it. For that purpose "he devised the Amnesty in the hope that he

i See Ms letters in " La Verite en MareTie," p. 181 and p. 205 ; also others in " L'Aurore," March 10 and 15, 1900.